

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:
Kohji Yoshii

Application No.: 10/580,133

Confirmation No.: 9224

Filed: May 19, 2006

Art Unit: 2115

For: SWITCHING REGULATOR

Examiner: J. A. Abbaszadeh

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

MS Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Claims 1-12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,424,128 (Hiraki). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

The Office Action relies on the driver control circuit 121 of Hiraki, col. 4, lns. 16-20, as the alleged disclosure of the “control circuit part” of independent claim 1. Office Action, p. 2. Applicant respectfully disagrees. According to independent claim 1, the “control circuit part [is] configured to control the switching of the switching transistor in synchronization with an externally input clock signal.” (emphasis added).

However, Hiraki does not teach any clock signal externally input to the driver control circuit 121. Applicant respectfully submits that the Office Action also fails to identify which signal corresponds to “an externally input clock signal” of independent claim 1. For example, the Office Action relies on the regulator circuit 110 of FIG. 1 of Hiraki as alleged disclosure of the “switching regulator” of independent claim 1. However, FIG. 1 of Hiraki merely shows that the reference

voltage generator circuit 111, the control signal S113 from the power supply control unit 113, and a feedback signal (equivalent to the output power supply voltage Vddi from the regulator 120) are input to the driver control circuit 121. None of these signals is considered a clock signal.

Further, the Office Action relies on the power supply control unit 113 of Hiraki as alleged disclosure of the “clock signal detect circuit part” of independent claim 1. Office Action, p. 3.

According to independent claim 1, the “clock signal detect circuit part [is] configured to detect presence or absence of inputting of the clock signal.” (emphasis added).

Here, “the clock signal” refers to the same clock signal as externally input to the “control circuit part.” That is, according to independent claim 1, the clock signal externally input to the “control circuit part” is also detected by the “clock signal detector circuit part.” However, as described above, no clock signal is externally input to the driver control circuit 121 of Hiraki. Accordingly, the power supply control unit 113 cannot “detect presence or absence of inputting of the clock signal.” Even assuming *arguendo* that the power supply control unit 113 of Hiraki detects presence or absence of inputting of a clock signal, this detected clock signal cannot be “the clock signal” because Hiraki fails to teach that a clock signal is externally input to the driver control circuit 121.

Thus, Hiraki fails to disclose at least the “control circuit part” and the “clock signal detector circuit part” of independent claim 1. That is, Hiraki does not teach each and every element of independent claim 1. For at least this reason, it is believed that the rejection of independent claim 1, as well as the rejection of claims 2-12 depending therefrom, should be withdrawn.

In view of the above, Applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Dated: November 6, 2008

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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